

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE****IN THE SPECIFICATION**

The paragraph beginning at line 1 of page 29 has been amended as follows:

A preferred composition was formulated at 1 u/μl Taq polymerase in Taq storage buffer (consisting of 20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0, 100 mM KCl, 0.1 mM EDTA, 1 mM DTT, 0.5% [Tween 20] **TWEEN 20 (Polyoxyethylenesorbitan monolaurate)**, 0.5% Igepal® CA-630, 50% glycerol in water) with the magnesium formulation of dye at a total absorbance of 300. The dye composition was 80% acid red 1, 20% acid violet 5 (100%= absorbance of acid red 1 at  $\lambda_{\max}$  + absorbance of acid violet 5 at  $\lambda_{\max}$ , absorbance of acid red 1=240, acid violet 5=60). This formulation is designated "**REDTaq™**". When added to a PCR reaction mixture at 0.05 u/μl Taq, the total dye absorbance is 15. The dye combination at this concentration was visible in a subsequent agarose gel electrophoresis of the completed reaction mix, yet the combination was relatively non-toxic to PCR. A lower concentration of the dye in the reaction mixture would be difficult to see during a subsequent agarose gel electrophoresis. As a comparison, the previously discussed prior art Taq-dye formulation, Red Hot DNA Polymerase, has an absorbance of 3.3 at 572 nm, and 4.6 at 435 nm. At the recommended concentration in a PCR reaction mixture, Red Hot DNA Polymerase has an absorbance of 0.033 and 0.046, at 572 and 435 nm, respectively. Therefore, in contrast to **REDTaq™**, the Red Hot DNA Polymerase formulation would not be useful as a tracer in an electrophoretic analysis of a PCR reaction.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claim 12 has been amended as follows:

12. The composition of claim 11 wherein the reaction component is essential for an ex-vivo polymerase reaction in which a nucleic acid polymer product complementary to a nucleic acid polymer template is prepared, the tracer is compatible with the polymerase, and the composition is substantially free of the nucleic acid polymer template.

Claims 34 through 41 have been added.